

# Crash Details Remain Hush-Hush

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (UPI) — The Pentagon concedes a plane crashed, but everything else is hush-hush.

The plane is believed to have been a high-altitude spy plane under development, a successor to the U-2 and SR-71.

It crashed in a remote area of Nevada that the federal government has kept closed to the public as a secret weapons testing ground since 1941. The pilot, who was injured, gave his address as "General Delivery, Las Vegas" and checked out of a hospital.

The Pentagon Thursday issued this statement:

"On May 4 there was an aircraft accident on the Nellis Range in which the pilot was injured. His injuries were not serious. For security reasons that is all the information available."

Officials at Nellis Air Force Base Thursday denied any knowledge of the crash and said no Nellis pilots or personnel — the usual users of the range — were involved in any accident.

William Parks, 52, was admitted to Southern Nevada Memorial Hospital May 6, treated for multiple fractures and a concussion, and released Wednesday, a hospital spokesman said.

Parks gave hospital attendants little information when admitted, other than to list his occupation, pilot, his employer, the Lockheed Corp., and his address: General Delivery, Las Vegas.

A Lockheed spokesman would not comment.

Lockheed developed the U-2 and SR-71 spy planes. Sources said Parks was a test pilot with Lockheed's advanced development projects department, nicknamed the "Skunk Works," and was transferred to another hospital, probably near his home in Los Angeles.

The triangle-shaped Nellis Range complex covers 8 million acres, the largest military range in the free

world, and includes 3.5 million acres closed since 1941 to civilian travel and overflights.

There have been unconfirmed reports recently that a new U.S. spy plane was being tested at a secret Department of Defense installation within the complex.

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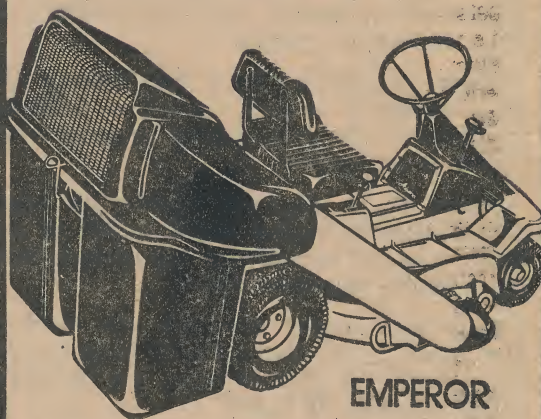
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